



Transportation Department

Safety Newsletter –

Winter Season Once again, the winter season is fast approaching us. As we move towards the change of seasons, the Plum Borough School District is faced with many challenges and unique safety concerns for our students. Frigid winds, snow and ice trigger important winter weather safety reminders to students, motorists and parents. This newsletter will depict some of this information that you will need to be aware of as we prepare for the imminent change in weather and winter season.

First, the Plum Borough School District school bus drivers participate in a comprehensive training program which includes preparation for driving in inclement weather and adverse conditions like wintry weather. Drivers conduct a daily pre-trip inspection of their buses before they go on their route. School buses are also designed to provide maximum safety every day, even in extreme weather conditions. In fact, school buses are the safest way to get to and from school; nearly 13 times safer than traveling in a passenger vehicle, according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Students, as well as parents, need to realize that weather conditions can dictate the proper method of dress and travel. During cold conditions, proper clothing should include layering of clothes, along with a heavy coat, boots, gloves and a hat. The hat should not obstruct the student's vision and clothing should be bright so that traffic can see you during your walk to and from school, or to and from the bus stop.

As you walk, during inclement weather, please be aware of these important safety concerns:

(1). Stay alert! The old adage of "stop, look and listen" is so important for school children. Hoodies, headphones and portable electronic devices can distract students from paying attention to surrounding traffic.

(2). Be mindful of snow and ice which can cause vehicles to skid or slide on the roadways.

(3). Pay particular attention at intersections where vehicles must stop. Sudden stops on icy roads can cause skidding and accidents.

(4). Cross intersections only when traffic is clear or has come to a complete stop.

(5). Do not procrastinate. Get to your destination, and avoid horseplay along the way and at the bus stop.

(6). Students should never run after the bus. Plan ahead and allow sufficient time to get to the bus stop. Be at the stop waiting for the bus. As the weather gets colder, the temptation to wait inside until the bus gets there is stronger. Please remember, when we wait on your student to run out of the house to get to the bus, the bus falls behind on the route and it forces all of the other students on that route to wait in the cold.

On rare occasions, buses are late because of weather conditions, mechanical problems, or other traffic on the roadway. Talk to your child about what to do if the bus is late. Here are some suggestions:

- When possible, wait with your child for the bus.
- Make sure your child knows a phone number where he/she can reach you or another adult.

Teach them how and where to get help.

Consequently, our winter school delays or cancellations can be heard on the following local television stations: KDKA, WTAE, and WPXI. Additionally, we encourage you to sign up for Plum Connect, at <http://www.pbsd.k12.pa.us/plumconnect.aspx>, it is our new attendance and emergency alert system.

As the winter season approaches, let's all be mindful of these safety concerns and prepare, accordingly. Our students and their safety is our number one priority and we are committed to their security and setting the highest standards for our services. Let's have a safe and enjoyable winter season.

Respectfully,

Scott Mergen
Director of Transportation